RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

November, 1992

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

MAIL SERVICE OR A LACK OF.....

That's the question. Have you had any or all of the following delivery problems: late deliveries of dated sales circulars, bulk deliveries on certain dates, mail delivered to the wrong addresses or a generally uneven schedule of delivery time? These problems plus any others that have happened to you are signs of mismanagement, lax work rules and little or no response to individual complaints by our local post office on Central Avenue.

The advertisement motto states: "We deliver for You" when it should actually be "We deliver fo You when we want to". This is not a new complaint in our neighborhood. In the past, RNA has had postal managers at our meetings and we have been given explanations and reasons for the level of service - but all of this to no avail.

The most recent example is theone week late delivery of the RNA newsletter to parts of Ogden Avenue. The newsletter, which was brought to the Montgomery Street Post Office on October 5th, was finally delivered on October 15th - two days after the October monthly meeting. (In the past, the newsletter is usually delivered within two or three days.)

There are always going to be inevitable problems with all mail service but as I learned from a dealer at our recent flea market, who lives on the other side of the Heights, their mail service is consistent with our delivery problems. So, I believe it's about time to shake up the system and jump start some constructive mail service. This can start by sending a letter to the Postmaster General in Newark. Now this might seem a little extreme, but there comes a time when the only thing to do is a little demonstration of our frustration about the level of service that we're getting (or not getting, as the case may be!). Maybe the message might come down to the fact that our local managers must resolve this problem in a fast, permanent, and satisfactory fashion. Having the local managers answering to the postmaster in Newark might be what the doctor ordered. If we don't get improved service we should vocie our frustration and stage a demonstration in front of the Central Avenue post office. So here is our chance to act in unison to get our mail devlivery problems resolved once and for all.

Mail your complaints to: **U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POSTMASTER FERGUSON, NEWARK FIELD DIVISION, P.O. 877, NEWARK, N.J. 07102-0877.**

Ernest Quintero, Vice Chair

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

For a long time, many members have been complaining about the garbage on Palisade Avenue. "The City does nothing", they said. "What can we do to clean up Palisade Avenue", they asked.

Well finally our vice-chair, Ernie Quintero suggested a mini-neighborhood clean-up. Concentrationg on Palisade Avenue from Cuneo Place to Riverview-Fisk Park. Wonderful! its a great idea! We should do it, members said.

So where were all of you concerned members, on Saturday October 17th at 10 am in the morning? The only people who actually came out to clean up were Ernie Quintero, Dorothy Rosario and Maria Tuzzo: two RNA officers and one very new member.

WHERE WERE THE REST OF OUR MEMBERS? Even if you could not push a broom, your presence and encouragement would have been appreciated. Our three "man" team worked for 2 1/2 hours cleaning both sides of the Avenue. We gathered two bags of recycling material and four bags of garbage. And we were just three people! How many more blocks, or side streets we could have cleaned up if there were more of us! We will never know!

Congratulations to you, Ernie and Dorothy and even to myself. We at least have the courage of our convictions and know that when we say we'll do something we do it!

Maria Tuzzo, Chairperson

P.S. Thanks so much to John Folk of Family Fun Center on Palisade Avenue and Hutton Street. When John saw what we were doing, he came out and swept his own sidewalk and curb. He allowed us to leave the bags of trash and recycling material we had already gathered at his location to be put out with his trash.

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th AT 7:15 PM

AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) Preparation for the HARBOR VIEW HOLIDAY PARTY

2) Collections for the ANNUAL FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

1) The date for this year's **Holiday Party for the residents of the Harbor View Health Care Center is Thursday, December 17th from 1 to 3 pm**. Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments and help entertain the guests at our annual holiday party for these residents. Donations of dietetic baked goods are needed. If you can help in anyway, please attend the November 10th meeting to assist in the planning.

2) RNA will again be accepting **donations of nonperishable foods and toys** (either new or used, but in working condition) for distribution by the Salvation Army for the holiday season. These donations can be brought to the November 10th and the December 8th meetings of RNA. Cash donations are acceptable and will be disbursed according to the donor's wishes. For information regarding other locations where these donations can be dropped off, please call 659-2245 after 6 p.m.

3) Anyone interested in going **Caroling** this Christmas should come to the November 10th meeting. We will organize the event for the Holidays if there is sufficient interest and willing participants.

MEETING MINUTES

A Candidate's Night and a heavy agenda made RNA's October meeting lively and informative.

Five mayoral candidates, running to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor Gerald McCann, spoke. Each was given ten minutes to make a presentation, which was followed by a short question-and-answer period.

The first candidate to speak was Hudson County Freeholder Lou Manzo, who said he is running on two issues - taxes and crime. He talked about his 10-point platform to reduce crime, including plans to take police officers out from behind desks and put them on patrol. In addition, Lou Manzo (and he stressed his first name because there are two Manzos on the ballot) would create a scooter patrol, and the officers on the scooter patrol would be required to ring the doorbells of at least eight residents on his/her beat. He would also strictly enforce loitering laws, and create "crime zones" on the streets and corners which have high crime rates, and would enforce a curfew in those zones. Lou Manzo promised to create a Youth Conservation corps, through small businesses and college internships, to reach out to young people to steer them away from a life of crime.

On the subject of taxes, Mr. Manzo pointed out that the real estate growth of the '80s has not helped Jersey City because of the big abatements developers got. He is proposing a corporate tax, and said it would not drive away business from Jersey City. He said New York and Newark have corporate taxes which work well, and even with a corporate tax , Jersey City would be a cheaper place to do business than than New York. Furthermore, he promises to streamline government, but will not make cuts in the police and fire departments. Lou Manzo hopes to attract recycling/reprocessing businesses to Jersey City, saying "Our trash is our solution to our economy".

He fielded questions on how to keep young people in Jersey City, taxes, how the public can force him to keep his word, and how to clean-up the streets. On the last issue, he said juveniles, who were arrested for minor offenses, should pay back their debt to society by cleaning-up the streets.

Councilman Jamie Vasquez was up next. He opened his comments by talking about Jersey City's young people, and how he comes across so many of the city's youth who do not feel good about living in Jersey City. He wants to change attitudes in Jersey City government, and outside it.

Mr. Vasquez talked a little bit about himself - he's 43 years old, grew up in the Heights, is a Vietnam veteran, is a former drug abuse social worker, and has a degree in Urban studies from St. Peter's College. He said his philosophy is "Every problem has a solution". He promised a "can-do attitude" if elected and added he would run an open government, and an administration of problem-solving. Councilman Vasquez promised to create a Citizens Advisory Council which would meet every two months with the mayor to discuss community needs.

Fielding a question on taxes, Vasquez said, "I don't think anyone can lower taxes. Anyone who tells you that is either misleading you or lying to you". He said the only feasible course is to maintain the current level of taxes by streamlining government through attrition. He also favors a municipal liquor tax, but says by law it would apply only on drinks sold in restaurants and bars. He supports a gas tax for gas stations along the Holland Tunnel corridor, and says he's asked for a series of new user taxes. All of these taxes, he says, would relieve the property tax burden on city residents.

The next candidate was Councilwoman and former mayor Marilyn Roman, who opened with a long list of troubling economic facts. Some of them were: 18 percent of Jersey City's property owners aren't paying their taxes; the school tax is up four dollars since 1989; the county tax is up 30 percent; there's been a reduction in the tax base because of appeals; in the last few years, Jersey City has lost money from the federal government. She then asked the audience, "What would you do to lower taxes?"

Councilwoman Roman went on with other harsh economic facts - $100 million goes to the police and fire departments; 55 percent of the police and fire forces make $50,000. to $60,000. a year; arbitrators have forced the City into expensive contracts.

Her solutions include a non-resident tax on people working in Jersey City, but living elsewhere. Also a teacher for 24 years, she says education is the long-term solution to all of Jersey City's problems. Furthermore, she favors sharing tax collection duties with a professional corporation in the hope of increasing collections on delinquent taxpayers. Mr. Roman also promised to keep the city's residents informed on what the problems are, and the reasons why the problems exist. She said the people of Jersey City have the power to change business as usual in the city, by putting the spotlight on important issues, forcing them into public debate, and demanding solutions.

Councilwoman-at-large Willie Flood was the fourth candidate to speak. She is a 30-year resident of

Jersey City who is married with three children. She spoke of a vision for a "safe, clean environment, where seniors don't fear going out". She also wants to create jobs for young people. Mrs. Flood would require new businesses in Jersey City that get tax breaks to hire city residents. She said housing, and services for seniors are two of her priorities.

Councilwoman Flood promised to open the City up to the people, for a government run by the people. Once a month, she would visit each ward and hear from the people themselves. After her presentation, she fielded a question on preparing students for the job market, and said a lack of parental involvement is a big factor in the decline in education. Asked about other money-raising ideas she would pursue in office, she responded she would streamline government through attrition.

Mike Borseso, the last mayoral candidate to speak, said his candidacy offers a chance to reverse rampant street crime. He promised strong, decisive leadership with realistic solutions.

As a former police officer and police commissioner, he promised a law and order government. He would deploy community-based cops with adjoining posts.

Mike Borseso promised to walk the streets of Jersey City himself, and said he would force the department heads to face the public. He said he would be mayor and police commissioner during his months in office, which would save the City money because he would only accept the mayor's salary. He told the audience it would take two to three months to get his tough crime-fighting plan into effect.

After the Candidate's Forum, RNA got down to its own local business. It decided the annual party at the Harbor View Health Center will be held on Thursday, December 17th from 1 to 3 pm. (Reminder: Harbor View is having it's own flea market on November 18th from 9 am to 3 pm. They are looking for donations of small household items and unused greeting cards.)

Secretary McCorry led a discussion on the proposal to start a neighborhood walk program. The police support the program, but strongly advise that it not be created under the auspices of RNA. Community Relations Officer Rubino says an RNA program could raise serious liability issues for RNA. With that in mind, it was agreed at the meeting that RNA will not sponsor a civilian patrol. Instead, it will work with any individual who wants to create such a program. RNA is hoping to get a volunteer to create a loosely-structured neighborhood walk program.

On the on-going subject of expanding RNA's boundaries north of Bowers Street to Congress Street, a formal resolution to publish the proposal was adopted unanimously. Under the RNA Constitution, the proposal must be published in two consecutive newsletters before a final vote is taken. At the October meeting, there were four residents from the proposed expansion area.

Under new business, a complaint about Ferry Street was brought up. Residents near Ferry Street say it is filthy, and city garbage trucks and sweepers don't go near it. A proposal was made to ask the City Council to erect alternate-side of the street parking signs on Ferry Street, and to include the street in the City's street sweeping program.

Lastly, chairwoman Tuzzo explained that half of Ogden Avenue (north of Franklin Street) did not get their newsletters on time last month. She urged everyone who got their newsletters late to write a letter of complaint to the U.S. Postal Service. RNA will send a letter of complaint about out inconsistent mail delivery service, and would like the Post Office to hear from individual residents as well.

Frances Santoro won the 50/50 raffle.

Join us att our next meeting, Tuesday, November 10th at 7: 15 pm at the Harbor View Health Center.

Margaret McCorry, Secretary

CONRAD'S CORNER

Jersey City ,with the second largest senior citizen population in the United States, has the highest taxes of any city in the entire country. Now our City Council and County are about to raise our taxes again. Where are our senior citizens going to get the money for this increase? They just haven't got it. Hasn't it ever dawned on members of our part-time City Council to get rid of our surplus employees? Every business man has to do it if he hasn't got enough work for his employees to keep from going bankrupt. It's just that simple.

Let's have a tax ceiling for senior citizens over 65. There is no way they are going to be able to get any more money for an increase at their age. We have a rent ceiling for tenants who work, why not a ceiling for senior citizens who can no longer work. Do they have to lose their houses because they can no longer pay any increase in taxes? It's not fair to favor one group and not the other who have been paying taxes all their life.

A NEW ICE SKATING RINK IN THE HEIGHTS

For some time an issue of importance has been around regarding a new regulation hockey rink being built in Pershing Field Park by Jersey City. This new rink will replace the ice skating rink built for the area residents. Petitions containing many names opposing this new hockey rink and erection of any new buildings in Pershing Field have been presented to the City Administration and have been ignored.

On September 26, 1992, the Jersey City Planning Board called a special meeting to be held on a night and a place other than where the Board's regular meetings are held. On the agenda was Case 92-56 - "Application for the Demolition of the existing Pershing Field Ice Skating Rink and the Construction of a new covered rink and a 1700 square foot Changing Room Building".

As reported in Jersey Journal on Wednesday, September 30th, the Planning Board approved the demolition of the existing ice skating rink at the end of the season. This demolition is done so a new rink, just five feet longer than the old one, can be built to conform to regulation Hockey Rink standards. Also approved was the construction of a building in the Park to facilitate the needs of the hockey players.

It would be beneficial to the taxpayers if the Jersey City Council would reconsider spending upwards of four million dollars ($4,000,000.) of borrowed money

on this misplaced facility.

We are not against a regulation hockey rink being built in Jersey City. But - we favor a facility that would be located in an area better suited to serve the people of Jersey City. Just a hundred feet south of the present ice skating rink the City owns thirteen (13) acres of virgin land where this regulation rink should be built. This would offer the opportunity for parking and room for grandstands. This facility that could also be used for activities such as Ice Shows. The use of this available land would allow for parking and future expansion.

We should also consider the encroachment of this new hockey rink on the little bit of passive park area left in Pershing Field. Pershing Field after all is a memorial park. This project will lead to its demise.

If the present City Council does not correct this mistake in judgement, it is hoped that the new Mayor will appreciate the advantages offered by erecting this facility in the Reservoir property.

Let's plan a decent hockey rink and an all purpose facility for the benefit of all the residents of Jersey City. You be the judge.

Herbert C. Huels, President
Pershing Field Neighborhood Association

P.S. Rumors have it that the City plans to buy the Jackson Valley camp - reasoning is that they leased it for 12 weeks at a cost of $120,000 which can be deducted from the cost of the camp and they don't want to lose that opportunity. This logic reminds me of the farmer who needed a plow horse but couldn't afford the $400 to buy one - so he leased the horse for $10 a day with the promise that he could deduct whatever rental he paid from the cost if he wanted to buy the horse. The farmer used the horse for five days and the horse dropped dead. His son asked him what he was going to do - which the farmer replied "Why I'm going to buy it - I don't want to lose the money I paid already".

VETERAN'S DAY DEDICATION

The Pershing Field Neighborhood Association will dedicate a memorial plaque in memory of eleven Jersey City residents who lost their lives in an anti-tank mine explosion in World War Two.

The veterans to be honored were members of the 294th Engineer Combat Battalion, Company C, United States Army: Frances X. Gallagher, Lawrence C. Sbaratta, Martin A. Norton, Charles W. Bronkofski, John P. Deevy, Leonard B. Kerr, Roger E. Kroeger, Thomas S. Nicol, Lucien P. Pessoz, Conrad Propp, and Joseph J. Zanelli.

The ceremony will be held in Pershing Field Memorial Park (located on Summit Avenue between Manhattan Avenue and Pershing Plaza) at 11 am on Wednesday , November 11, 1992. All are invited to attend this dedication. Assembly will be at 10 am. For more information, call 653-7634.

NEW REALITIES

For anyone who does not know, there is a great new program in town. Every **Saturday night at 7:00 pm**, there is something exciting going on at Calvary **Union Presbyterian Church which is located at 110 Hancock Avenue** here in Jersey City. With the encouragement of Pastor Dr. David Purushotaman, people with problems that are caused by the abusive use of alcohol or drugs now have a place that they can go to try and find some answers.

There are no professional counselors at these meetings. In New Realities, you find people who can relate to the problems of chemically dependent people. The group was started by a bunch of recovering addicts and alcoholics who are currently in treatment at the Market Street Mission in Morristown under the tutelage of Rev. Solomon J. Tivade. Rev. Tivade has been dealing with chemically dependent people for twenty years.

The hardest lesson for a chemically dependent person to learn is that he cannot solve his problems by himself. If you know someone who has a dependency problem, do them a favor and tell them about New Realities.

THE SHARE FOOD PROGRAM

SHARE is an excellent food program. Each month you pay $13.00 to sign up perform two (2) hours of community service, then receive $35.00 worth of fresh fruits, vegetables, pastas and meats. No restrictions or requirements of any kind.

For more information, call 433-1815, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

NOVEMBER...

Election Day, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving,
Falling leaves, pumpkin pies, turkeys...
And of course a great fall meeting with the RNA,
Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Madeline D. Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is the first publication of the formal proposal to expand the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association currently represents residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Bowers Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: October 13, 1992

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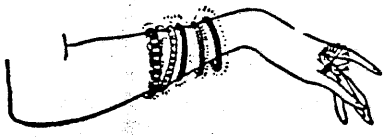

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COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE
NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 10TH BEGINNING AT 7:15 PM

RNA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY
FOOD & TOY DRIVE

REMEMBER THE LESS
FORTUNATE DURING THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON. PLEASE
BRING SOMETHING TO
CONTRIBUTE AT OUR NEXT
MEETING.

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NEWSLETTER

LEAF COLLECTION: BAG AND RECYCLE YOUR GARDEN LEAVES!

The Jersey City Incinerator Authority has provided special leaf pick-up days during the fall season. Please collect your leaves in their FREE BIODEGRADABLE BROWN BAGS and put them out on the appropriate dates listed below.

These free biodegradable brown bags are available at the Incinerator Authority Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. The address of the Incinerator Authority is 501 Route 440, Jersey City, N.J. 07305. The telephone number is 432-4645 extension 36. (LOCALLY, bags can be picked up on Ogden Avenue from the Tuzzos. Call 659-2245 after 6 pm to make arrangements for pick-up.)

ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NO PLASTIC BAGS MAY BE USED FOR LEAVES!

LEAF COLLECTION SCEHULE FOR 1992:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24